



## **MT. HOOD AND COLUMBIA RIVER GORGE RECREATION ENHANCEMENT AND CONSERVATION ACT**

### **SECTION BY SECTION SUMMARY**

#### **Title I – Honoring Tribal Treaty Rights**

##### **Sec. 101 – Indian Treaty Resources Emphasis Zones, Mount Hood National Forest**

Directs the Forest Service to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs to protect and enhance Treaty resources within “Indian Treaty Resources Emphasis Zones,” through a co-management structure. The establishment of such Zones will help meet the trust responsibilities of the United States in protecting the exercise of Tribal Treaty rights and integrate indigenous knowledge as an important part of the best available scientific information used to manage land within the Zones. The Forest Service and Tribe will enter into the MOU within 60 days to determine the scope and management of the Zones. The MOU will involve public review and comment consistent with federal environmental law and will be implemented within 2 years and reviewed every 5 years.

Also requires implementation of the Cultural Foods Obligations, which were included in the Public Lands Management Act of 2009 but have never been implemented.

Authorizes appropriations for the implementation of projects and programs required under this Section.

#### **Title II – Enhancing Sustainable Outdoor Recreation**

##### **Sec. 201 – Enhancing Recreation Management on the Mount Hood National Forest**

Requires a National Recreation Area within the Mount Hood National Forest. You can view the map [here](#).

Also requires creation of a Sustainable Recreation Management Plan for the Recreation Area. The Plan must include a comprehensive assessment of and plan to achieve sustainable recreation, transportation, public safety, natural resource protection and enhancement, and other uses. It must also have public review and community involvement, including consultation with the Tribes.

##### **Sec. 202 – Enhancing Recreation Management in the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area**

Requires a Sustainable Recreation Management Plan for the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area. The Plan must include a vision for socially, economically, and ecologically sustainable recreation, recreation planning, and recreation infrastructure. It must also have public review and community involvement, including consultation with the Tribes. In creating the Plan,



the Forest Service must also study the development of interconnected trails around the Gorge and, specifically, the development of a trail connecting Mosier and The Dalles.

### **Sec. 203 – Establishing Recreation Centers for Excellence**

Establishes Recreation Centers for Excellence for the Mount Hood National Forest and the Columbia River Gorge. The Centers will help implement the Mount Hood and Columbia River Gorge Sustainable Recreation Management Plans. The Centers will also engage with the public to address issues including trail stewardship, communication between agencies and partners, recreation infrastructure needs, equitable recreation access, and more. This section also gives the Forest Service the ability to enter into agreements and contracts in order to carry out projects or programs within Mount Hood and the Gorge that promote stewardship and education.

### **Sec. 204– Authorization of Appropriations**

Authorizes additional appropriations for the implementation of projects and programs required under this Title.

## **Title III – Wildfire Planning, Mitigation, and Rehabilitation**

### **Sec. 301 – Wildfire Assessment and Mitigation Plans**

Requires a wildfire assessment for the Mount Hood National Forest, the Columbia River Gorge, and any private, state, or tribal land adjacent to those areas. The assessment will evaluate possible sources of ignition, estimated impacts to natural resources, tribal treaty resources and infrastructure, and contributing factors such as climate change and fire suppression. It will also include a plan to implement cost-effective, non-commercial, science-based restoration treatments and wildfire mitigation techniques informed by traditional tribal ecological knowledge to improve wildfire resilience and reduce wildfire risk and damage.

### **Sec. 302 – Rehabilitating Recreational Infrastructure Post-Wildfire**

Directs the Secretary of Agriculture to prioritize rebuilding and rehabilitating or relocating, if necessary, recreation infrastructure in the Mount Hood National Forest and Columbia River Gorge that is damaged due to wildfire. Also directs the Secretary to consider the construction of educational wildfire kiosks to improve public understanding of the role of wildfire in the region's forests.

### **Sec. 303– Authorization of Appropriations**

Authorizes additional appropriations for the implementation of projects and programs required under this Title.

## **Title IV – Protection of Special Places**

### **Sec. 401 – Preservation of Wilderness**

Creates certain additions to existing wilderness areas in the Mount Hood National Forest. You can view the maps [here](#).



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### **Sec. 402 – Preservation of Wild and Scenic Rivers**

Designates certain rivers in the Mount Hood National Forest as Wild and Scenic Rivers. You can view the maps [here](#).

### **Sec. 403 – Enhancement of Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail**

Directs the Secretary of Agriculture to assess existing use of the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail and ensure adequate management, protection, and enhancement of the Trail's resources, values, and recreation opportunities.

### **Sec. 404 – Honoring Nancy Russell**

Renames a portion of the Mark. O. Hatfield Wilderness as the Nancy Russell Columbia River Gorge Wilderness.

### **Sec. 405– Authorization of Appropriations**

Authorizes additional appropriations for the implementation of projects and programs required under this Title.

## **Title V – Modernizing Transportation and Transit**

### **Sec. 501 – Establishing a Columbia River Gorge Access Committee**

Establishes an Access Committee to create a comprehensive, coordinated, multi-jurisdictional plan to improve safe, equitable, and ecologically sustainable access to the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area. The plan will include coordinated, reliable, and user-friendly transportation and transit options; reduction of congestion on roadways; improvement for recreational access, public safety, and emergency personnel access; sustainable funding; and more. The plan will be submitted to Congress, as well as the Oregon and Washington State Legislatures, within one year and will be updated every two years.

### **Sec. 502 – Establishing a Mount Hood Access Committee**

Establishes an Access Committee to create a comprehensive, coordinated, multi-jurisdictional plan to improve safe, equitable, and ecologically sustainable access to the Mount Hood National Forest. The plan will include coordinated, reliable, and user-friendly transportation and transit options; reduction of congestion on roadways; improvement for recreational access, public safety, and emergency personnel access; sustainable funding; and more. The plan will be submitted to Congress, as well as the Oregon State Legislature, within one year and will be updated every two years.

### **Sec. 503– Authorization of Appropriations**

Authorizes additional appropriations for the implementation of projects and programs required under this Title.

## **Title VI – Improving Overall Funding, Management, and Public Safety**

### **Sec. 601 –Public Safety**



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Directs the Forest Service to enter into cooperative agreements with the state, local, and tribal governments for search and rescue, firefighting, and law enforcement services.

Also requires 5 additional law enforcement officer staff on each of the Mount Hood National Forest and the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area, provided those staff have undergone extensive and rigorous diversity, equity, and inclusion training. Authorizes funding for these law enforcement staff and training.

Authorizes appropriations for the implementation of projects and programs required under this Title.

### **Sec. 602 – Rules of Construction**

Clarifies certain valid existing rights for utility operation, maintenance, and other activities and reserved or outstanding rights provided for by statute or treaty.